

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 5, 2012, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Andrea Negrete, Mariah Ortiz, Merri Ann Osborne, Marty Penner, Michael Plengrat, Mica Powers, Greg Ramirez, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners Absent: Joshua Marshall

Commissioners by Phone: Marsha Mavunkel

SOCR Staff Present: Felicia Yearwood, Michael Chin

Guests: Dane Boog, Lisa Daugaard, Josh Friedes, Allena Gabosch, Jung Lee, Mac McGregor, Tiffany Nelson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: November, 2011 minutes were approved as read

SOCR report: Michael Chin

- SOCR has hired a civil rights analyst, Elizabeth Guerra
- SOCR is drafting regulations for implementation of the paid sick leave ordinance
- Commissioners are invited to Race the Power of an Illusion training on January 28th at Garfield Community Center, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Marriage Equality:

- Tiffany Nelson, SLGBTC, thanked the Commission for drafting its resolution
- Commissioners want to ensure that marriage equality is a high priority on the City's legislative agenda for 2012
- Equal Rights Washington asks that the Commission identify compelling stories and reach out to other organizations such as the Washington State Human Rights Commission
- Jessica volunteered to author a joint press release with the LGBT Commission

MOTION: Endorse Washington United for Marriage. ACTION: Passed

- Two key workplan items of the LGBT Commission:
 - Economic disadvantage experienced by transgender people
 - Planning for an LGBT community center on Capitol Hill
- Josh Friedes suggested that the commission encourage the King County Civil Rights Commission and other regional commissions and organizations to endorse the campaign

Police Accountability:

- The draft report was circulated and commented upon by the OPA Auditor, City Attorney Pete Holmes, and Council Members Harrell and Burgess
- Lisa Dugaard, Public Defender:
 - The DOJ report underestimates excessive use of force by SPD due to pervasive underreporting by officers
 - The DOJ analysis of race differentials lacks a key component of analysis because the DOJ failed to use baseline for comparison
 - The public complaint process should be separated from employee discipline in order to establish a truth and reconciliation model which will identify systemic problems that under the current process result in findings of no violation
- Roslyn Solomon will draft FAQs

Committee Reports:

- **Human Rights Analysis tool:** First meeting Saturday, January 7th 2:00 p.m.
- **Commission History Project:** Merri Ann introduced Jung Lee who will work on the project in preparation to celebrate the Commission's 50th anniversary
- **MLK Day Event:** Mariah is developing a workshop; commissioners are welcome to contribute. Commissioners who wish to participate in the march should notify Felicia.
- **Appeals:** Hearing for the Taylor v. Melton case is scheduled for February 15th, 9:00 a.m. Jennifer Yogi is scheduled to hear the case along with either Chris or Damien.

Announcements:

- January 17, 2012 4:30 p.m.: Tax equality meeting O'Asian Restaurant, 800 5th Avenue, to encourage the City to adjust for inequitable taxation of benefits to domestic partners.
- February 16, 2012: Lobby day for marriage equality, tentative.